

Union Calendar No. 345

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 1728

[Report No. 105–612]

To provide for the development of a plan and a management review of the National Park System and to reform the process by which areas are considered for addition to the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 1997

Mr. HEFLEY (for himself and Mr. VENTO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

JULY 14, 1998

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 22, 1997]

A BILL

To provide for the development of a plan and a management review of the National Park System and to reform the process by which areas are considered for addition to the National Park System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “National Park System*
 3 *New Area Studies Act”.*

4 **SEC. 2. STUDY OF NEW PARK SYSTEM AREAS.**

5 *Section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5; pop-*
 6 *ularly known as the National Park System General Au-*
 7 *thorities Act) is amended as follows:*

8 (1) *By inserting “GENERAL AUTHORITY.—”*
 9 *after “(a)”.*

10 (2) *By striking the second through the seventh*
 11 *sentences of subsection (a).*

12 (3) *By designating the last two sentences of sub-*
 13 *section (a) as subsection (e) and inserting in the first*
 14 *of such sentences before the words “For the purposes*
 15 *of carrying” the following: “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF*
 16 *APPROPRIATIONS.—”.*

17 (4) *By inserting the following after subsection*
 18 *(a):*

19 “(b) *STUDIES OF AREAS FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION.—*

20 *(1) At the beginning of each calendar year, along with the*
 21 *annual budget submission, the Secretary of the Interior*
 22 *shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House*
 23 *of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and*
 24 *Natural Resources of the United States Senate a list of*
 25 *areas recommended for study for potential inclusion in the*
 26 *National Park System.*

1 “(2) *In developing the list to be submitted under this*
2 *subsection, the Secretary shall give consideration to those*
3 *areas that have the greatest potential to meet the established*
4 *criteria of national significance, suitability, and feasibility.*
5 *The Secretary shall give special consideration to themes,*
6 *sites, and resources not already adequately represented in*
7 *the National Park System.*

8 “(3) *No study of the potential of an area for inclusion*
9 *in the National Park System may be initiated after the date*
10 *of enactment of this subsection, except as provided by spe-*
11 *cific authorization of an Act of Congress.*

12 “(4) *Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of*
13 *the National Park Service to conduct preliminary resource*
14 *assessments, gather data on potential study areas, provide*
15 *technical and planning assistance, prepare or process nomi-*
16 *nations for administrative designations, update previous*
17 *studies, or complete reconnaissance surveys of individual*
18 *areas requiring a total expenditure of less than \$25,000.*

19 “(5) *Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply*
20 *to or to affect or alter the study of any river segment for*
21 *potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers*
22 *system or to apply to or to affect or alter the study of any*
23 *trail for potential addition to the national trails system.*

24 “(c) *REPORT.—(1) The Secretary of the Interior shall*
25 *complete the study for each area for potential inclusion in*

1 *the National Park System within 3 complete fiscal years*
2 *following the date of enactment of specific legislation pro-*
3 *viding for the study of such area. Each study under this*
4 *section shall be prepared with appropriate opportunity for*
5 *public involvement, including at least one public meeting*
6 *in the vicinity of the area under study, and after reasonable*
7 *efforts to notify potentially affected landowners and State*
8 *and local governments.*

9 “(2) *In conducting the study, the Secretary shall con-*
10 *sider whether the area under study—*

11 “(A) *possesses nationally significant natural or*
12 *cultural resources and represents one of the most im-*
13 *portant examples of a particular resource type in the*
14 *country; and*

15 “(B) *is a suitable and feasible addition to the*
16 *system.*

17 “(3) *Each study—*

18 “(A) *shall consider the following factors with re-*
19 *gard to the area being studied—*

20 “(i) *the rarity and integrity of the re-*
21 *sources;*

22 “(ii) *the threats to those resources;*

23 “(iii) *similar resources are already pro-*
24 *ected in the National Park System or in other*
25 *public or private ownership;*

1 “(iv) the public use potential;

2 “(v) the interpretive and educational poten-
3 tial;

4 “(vi) costs associated with acquisition, de-
5 velopment and operation;

6 “(vii) the socioeconomic impacts of any des-
7 ignation;

8 “(viii) the level of local and general public
9 support, and

10 “(ix) whether the area is of appropriate
11 configuration to ensure long-term resource pro-
12 tection and visitor use;

13 “(B) shall consider whether direct National Park
14 Service management or alternative protection by
15 other public agencies or the private sector is appro-
16 priate for the area;

17 “(C) shall identify what alternative or combina-
18 tion of alternatives would in the professional judg-
19 ment of the Director of the National Park Service be
20 most effective and efficient in protecting significant
21 resources and providing for public enjoyment; and

22 “(D) may include any other information which
23 the Secretary deems to be relevant.

24 “(4) Each study shall be completed in compliance with
25 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

1 “(5) *The letter transmitting each completed study to*
2 *Congress shall contain a recommendation regarding the*
3 *Secretary’s preferred management option for the area.*

4 “(d) *LIST OF AREAS.—At the beginning of each cal-*
5 *endar year, along with the annual budget submission, the*
6 *Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on*
7 *Resources of the House of Representatives and to the Com-*
8 *mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United*
9 *States Senate a list of areas which have been previously*
10 *studied which contain primarily historical resources, and*
11 *a list of areas which have been previously studied which*
12 *contain primarily natural resources, in numerical order of*
13 *priority for addition to the National Park System. In devel-*
14 *oping the lists, the Secretary should consider threats to re-*
15 *source values, cost escalation factors, and other factors listed*
16 *in subsection (c) of this section. The Secretary should only*
17 *include on the lists areas for which the supporting data is*
18 *current and accurate.”.*

19 (5) *By adding at the end of subsection (e) (as*
20 *designated by paragraph (3) of this section) the fol-*
21 *lowing: “For carrying out subsections (b) through (d)*
22 *there are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000.”.*

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